

**SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
JULY 10, 2018 @ 8:00 PM**

The Board of Education of Independent School District No. 146 of Clay, Wilkin, and Ottertail Counties, Barnesville, Minnesota, met in special session on July 10, 2018.

Chairperson Bredman called the meeting to order at 8:03 PM

Board Members Present: Marla Field, Ryan Lindbom, Greg Berg, Dion Bredman, Jake Thompson, Jay Rehder, and Dave Herbranson

Guests Present: Fred Janssen, Darin Brandt, Jerry Janssen, Alex Hansen, Tanya Stokka, Phyllis Newmann, Darlys Borgard, Florence Johnson, Fred Dahnke, Ron Johnson, Jerry Tenderholt, Ryan Hough, Michael Stein, Jerry Feigum, Dennis Sobttzak, Tim Thompson, Todd Henrickson, Bryan Strand, and Scott Loeslie.

Motion by Rehder to approve the agenda, second by Herbranson. Motion carried 7-0 in favor.

Discussion of City scheduling a public hearing for July 30th to consider closing 4th and 5th streets as per school drawings.

Discussion by Marla Field in regard to the \$20M cap that was passed 4-3 in July of 2017. Dave Herbranson said he made that motion and it was learned it was seconded by former board member Chad Holland.

Herbranson made a motion to remove the cap, seconded by Field. Berg suggested leaving the cap alone until we arrived at a final decision. No further discussion. Voting in favor of removing the \$20M cap- Field, Lindbom, Bredman, Thompson, Rehder, Herbranson. Voting no Greg Berg. Motion carries 6-1 in favor of:

Board Members took turns discussing their facility plans / perspectives. Rehder- torn between good plan and costs, Berg cash flow concerns and presented a 3 question ballot of \$9.9M for elementary, \$16.5M for HS, and \$1.2M for connecting link. Dave emphasized the increase in cost from 22.5M to 25M was not overwhelming and would cost a few cents per acre. Field said the \$2.5 is less than 20% of the project and should not be reduced/ cut and she did not want to split the vote.

Some citizens' spoke in favor of the most recent plans and some spoke against. Comments ranged from our school facilities are starting to cause families to choose different schools for their kids and therefore where those families choose to live and it is not Barnesville. The walking track was considered as fluff and not needed for teaching kids to read while some other members in audience stated the walking track would be used by themselves and many others if available. Currently, if they need to walk they have to go to Fargo.

Board Member Thompson then suggested trimming the plan by cutting the kitchen costs, raise \$700K in fundraising, use \$500K in LTFM, and reduce square footage / footprint by \$1M dollars. To reach an estimated cost for the plan to be at \$22.75M. Thompson suggested the firms contracted with the school could determine how to best reduce the square footage. Loeslie stated that to reach 1M in cost reduction in square footage would require subtracting 5,500 + square feet and not sure where in the plan that would be found. Lindbom discussed reducing some parking as cost savings measure.

A citizen then re-iterated the fact that the \$20M cap is not functional but the perspective of the public is that \$20M will cover this plan so why are we considering 25-26M. Berg agreed the 20M is no longer functional as per his introduction of that dollar amount at a previous time.

Another citizen handed out the construction plan for Sebeka Schools. That looks similar in some aspects to the Barnesville plans but at a cost of \$12.5M. The square footage of the Sebeka project was not known at the time of distribution of materials.

Discussion about a possible 3 question motion to the objection of another board member who stated support for perhaps a 2 question ballot but not 3 questions. Chair Bredman stated that the meeting had exceeded the one and one-half hour time and heard a motion to adjourn by Lindbom and seconded by Thompson. Motion carried 7-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM